



2008 ANNUAL REPORT

For the Alaska Department of
Military & Veterans Affairs



**Finally something that
really saves you time...
And it's FREE!**



- **EZ SHIPPING:**
Book your shipments on-line
- **EZ TRACING:**
Keep an eye on your shipments
- **EZ EDI:**
Your information integration solution

- **EZ REPORTING:**
Information at your fingertips
- **EZ INVOICING:**
Reduce your paperwork
- **EZ PAYMENT:**
Streamline your accounts payable

Try it with your next shipment!

www.lynden.com/free

1-888-596-3361

The Lynden Family of Companies

Innovative Transportation Solutions





Governor Sarah Palin
Commander in Chief



Lieutenant General (Alaska) Craig E. Campbell
Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard
& Commissioner of the DMVA



Ms. Kalei Brooks
Managing Editor/DMVA Public Affairs

DMVA Public Affairs

Mr. McHugh Pierre

Major Guy Hayes

Sergeant Karima Turner

Specialist Margaret Moonin

Bob Ulin
Publisher

Susan Harrington
Editor

Gloria Schein
Art Director

Darrell George
Advertising Sales



8537 Corbin Dr., Anchorage, AK 99507
(907) 562-9300, (866) 562-9300

The **DMVA Annual Report** is a special project of **Warriors Magazine**. It is published, as required by State statute, to explain the annual missions and activities of the employees and military members of the Department of Defense, Alaska National Guard, and State of Alaska that are assigned within the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs.

The DMVA Annual Report is a commercial enterprise publication, produced in partnership with the State of Alaska, Alaska National Guard, Department of Defense, Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, PO Box 5800, Camp Denali, Ft. Richardson, Alaska 99505-0800, phone number (907) 428-6031, fax 428-6949; and, AQP Publishing, Inc., 8537 Corbin Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99507. All photos are credited to the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs unless otherwise identified.

The DMVA Annual Report is an authorized publication for the employees and members of the Department of Defense, Alaska National Guard, and Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. Contents of The DMVA Annual Report are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Departments of the Army and the Air Force, the Alaska National Guard, the State of Alaska, or the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs.

Published by AQP Publishing, Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the Department of Defense, Departments of the Army and the Air Force, Alaska National Guard, or State of Alaska, under exclusive written contract with Alaska National Guard.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of

DMVA 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

Left photo: An Alaska Air National Guard pararesueman from the 212th Rescue Squadron performs a fast-rope insertion from a 210th Rescue Squadron HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter over the frozen desert of Afghanistan. Photo: Lieutenant Colonel Timothy O'Brien, 210th Rescue Squadron

Right (from top): Cadet Jordan Elliott competes in the Alaska Military Youth Academy Drill and Ceremony competition in August.

Photo: Specialist Nicolas L. Nu'uvali, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

A ground-based interceptor is lowered into its silo earlier this year on the Missile Defense Complex located at Fort Greely.

Photo: Sergeant Jack W. Carlson III, 49th Missile Defense Battalion

Private Steven Kirk, B Company, 297th Support Battalion stands at the unit welcome home ceremony in May with a shield that represents his platoon motto "The Shield." Photo: Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs



Reports:

For the People	2
My Turn	3
DMVA ... By the Numbers	4
DMVA Organizational Charge	5
Alaska Army National Guard	6

Alaska Air National Guard	10
Homeland Security	14
Veterans	16
Alaska Military Youth Academy	18
Starbase Alaska	20



Arctic Sky. The sun rises at the beginning of another duty day for the 168th Air Refueling Wing at Eielson Air Force Base. Photo: Master Sergeant Brian Schlumbohm, 168th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Defense, Departments of the Army and the Air Force, Alaska National Guard, State of Alaska or AQP Publishing, Inc., of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron.

Distribution: The DMVA Annual Report is distributed free of charge for Office of the Governor, the Alaska Legislature, members of the United States Congress, senior State and Federal government and military leaders, interested citizens, current employees, military members, veterans, and their families. It is available free of charge, via mail and distribution, through each division within the department. It is also available free from our Web site: www.ak-prepared.com/dmva.

HOW TO REACH US:

The DMVA Annual Report
Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs
Office of Public Affairs
PO Box 5800, Camp Denali
Ft. Richardson, Alaska 99505-0800
(907) 428-6031 / Fax 428-6949

Ready to Serve

This document was printed at no cost to the State of Alaska.



For the People

Governor Sarah Palin
Commander in Chief



A Year of Excitement and Growth

This has been a year of excitement and growth for the State of Alaska and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. We broke new ground by receiving acknowledgement from our friends at the Federal Emergency Management Agency, we welcomed home Soldiers from Iraq, we are setting the standard for embedded transition teams in Afghanistan, we're molding our youth and we're helping veterans like never before.

Recently, some have criticized the Alaska National Guard and the service veterans receive from state government. Let me set the record straight.

Veterans choose to live in Alaska because we have a magnificent state with warm and caring people. DMVA has found innovative ways to provide improved service to veterans while creating an efficient budget that can be met during good and bad economic times.

When I took office, I made sure that there was a dedicated team tracking down former Alaska Territorial Guard members and their surviving families to get them the proper discharge certificates promised by the federal government some 60 years ago. That team

has received and delivered more than 1,200 applications for processing to the Department of the Army. This is 10 times more applications filed than the first year this program was started.

As commander-in-chief of the Alaska National Guard, I am committed to supporting my troops and leading the state's response during a state emergency. This fall, I promoted Commissioner Craig E. Campbell, my top military commander, to lieutenant general to reinforce his authority when providing military support to the state. This three-star promotion puts the adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard on equal footing with the active duty components in Alaska and visually recognizes his leadership role over military responders.

We had a unique year for disaster response in the state and in further parts of the nation. Alaska assets responded to floods and hurricanes in the Gulf Coast region to rescue Americans in harm's way. We have proven that the relationships and agreements with other states work for disaster response, and the people of Alaska can be assured their state government is working more efficiently to provide the services they expect.



A Handshake of Appreciation. Governor Sarah Palin shakes hands with Corporal Ben Chapman, from Fairbanks, prior to the official Welcome Home Ceremony for the Alaska Army National Guard's B Company, 297th Support Battalion in May. Palin gave letters of appreciation to several Soldiers in the unit who were previously awarded Bronze Stars with Valor or Purple Hearts while serving in Iraq. Photo: Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs



My Turn

Lieutenant General (Alaska) Craig E. Campbell
Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard
& Commissioner, Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs



Success at Home and Abroad

This year has demonstrated that the exceptional professionalism of our team marks us as one of the finest in America. The Alaska Army National Guard, while actively engaged overseas, formally initiated transformation to a Battlefield Surveillance Brigade and Troop Command in April. This transformation is essential to ensure relevancy of the Alaska Army National Guard to both our state and nation for decades to come.

The Alaska Army National Guard welcomed home nearly 180 members from their security mission in Iraq, while the embedded transition team also returned home after spending one year in Afghanistan working to strengthen the Afghan government, military, and police force. We recently sent another embedded transition team to Afghanistan, and as the year came to an end, we said goodbye to our aviators as they departed to Kosovo for a full year's deployment.

The Alaska Air National Guard is keeping up with a high operations tempo as well, fighting the Global War on Terrorism and participating in several humanitarian missions. Airmen were deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, Ecuador, Kyrgyzstan, Norway, Qatar and Turkey, performing security forces missions, search-and-rescue operations and air-refueling support.

A historic moment occurred in June when we broke ground on the future site of the 176th Wing at Elmendorf Air Force Base in preparation for the closure of Kulis Air National Guard Base beginning in 2010.

In November, a formal memorandum was signed between the commander of Pacific Air Forces, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, and myself, the adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, confirming Total Force Initiatives which confirms the C-17 Classic Associate mission with the 176th Wing, verifies the C-130 Active Associate construct for the 176th Wing, and proposes a KC-135 Active Associate construct for the 168th Air Refueling Wing.

The Alaska Air National Guard's Rescue Coordination Center handled more than 170 missions in 2008, with our Alaska Air and Army National Guard rescue crews saving more than 75 lives. Under authority of the Governors' Interstate Mutual Aid Compact, Governor Sarah Palin directed the Alaska National Guard to provide both airlift and rescue support during hurricanes Gustav and Ike based on requests from the governors of Louisiana and Texas. These efforts resulted in saving the lives of 16 people.

Alaskans living in the Interior experienced the worst flooding to hit the Fairbanks area in the last 40 years. The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management responded quickly to help flood victims apply for individual assistance, and Governor Palin signed a Declaration of Disaster Emergency to ensure Alaskans would receive the help they needed.

Services to our veterans remained a top priority in 2008. I am happy to report that more than 750 members of the Alaska Territorial Guard have received discharge certificates for their service during World War II. In addition, 2008 proved significant, as our veterans staff secured the federal military benefits and entitlements which were earned by these great American veterans.

Another significant accomplishment for veterans was federal



Groundbreaking. Distinguished officials ceremoniously break ground on the Elmendorf Air Force Base construction site that will be the new home to the 176th Alaska Air National Guard Wing. From left: the late Brigadier General Thomas Tinsley, Elmendorf Air Force Base 3rd Wing commander; Brigadier General Tony Hart, then-Kulis Air National Guard Base 176th Wing commander, General Carrol H. "Howie" Chandler, Pacific Air Forces commander; U.S. Senator Ted Stevens; Lieutenant General (Alaska) Craig E. Campbell, Alaska National Guard adjutant general; Lieutenant Governor Sean Parnell, Senior Airman Charity Orriss, Airman of the Year, 212th Rescue Squadron; Bud Alto, CH2M Hill; and Lieutenant General Dana Atkins, Alaskan Command commander. Photo: Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

passage of the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2008. This law specifically states that "the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall allow veterans who are eligible under existing U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs medical care requirements and who reside in Alaska to obtain medical care services from medical facilities supported by the Indian Health Service or tribal organizations." Now our Alaska National Guard veterans from rural Alaska will have improved access to the services they have honorably earned.

In 2007, when Governor Palin visited our soldiers in Kuwait, she was told that improved hunting and fishing opportunities was the highest interest to our military members. As a result, this year she introduced, and the legislature passed, legislation to permit free hunting, fishing and trapping licenses to Alaska National Guard members.

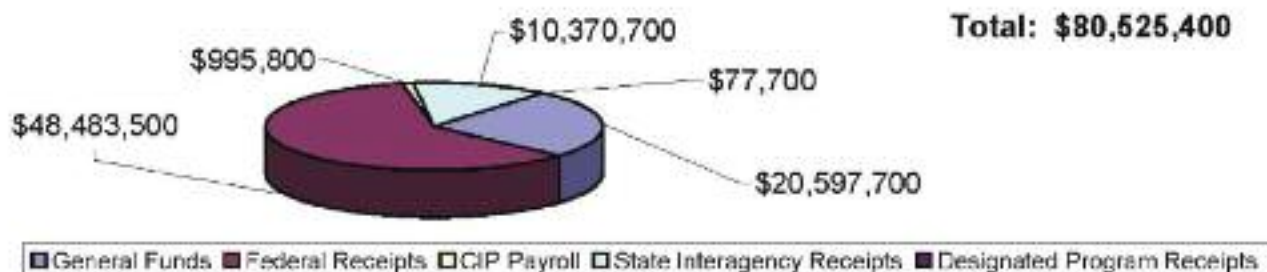
The Alaska State Defense Force initiated a significant mission change in 2008 to better serve the citizens of Alaska. As the Army Guard added military police, the ASDF is changing to a combat support construct. With this change, the ASDF will be more adaptable to meet the needs of state missions, especially during emergencies.

The Alaska Military Youth Academy is stronger than ever, producing more than 2,600 graduates to date. The last four graduating classes have been the largest in the Academy's 15-year history. As a result of this outstanding performance and the commitment to our youth, Governor Palin increased capital funding for the academy to upgrade facilities and infrastructure. We are proud of the work the staff is accomplishing and the lives they are impacting.

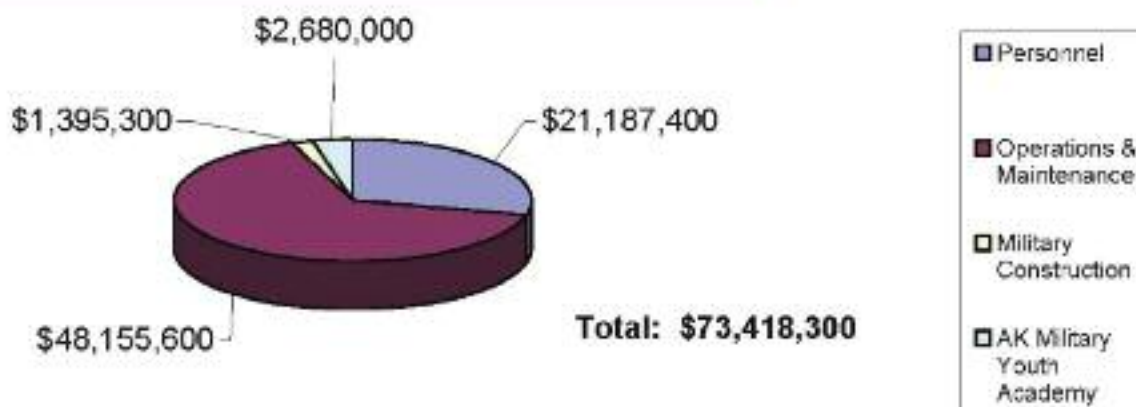
As you can see, in 2008 the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs achieved tremendous successes. "Securing the State, Defending the Nation" is our guiding principle, one that we strive to realize on a daily basis. The men and women of this department remain dedicated to the residents of Alaska. We look forward to continued success in the coming year to make the Last Frontier the safest place to call home.

DMVA... By the Numbers

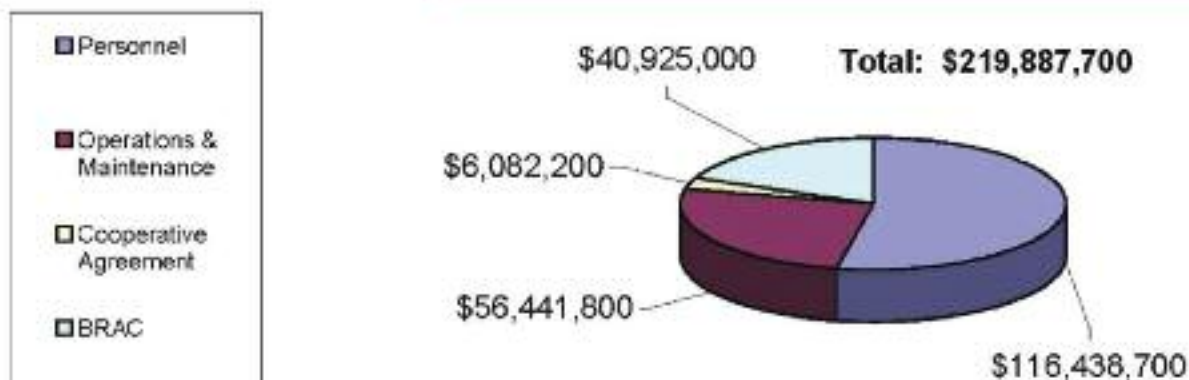
DMVA SFY2008 State Operating & Capital Actual Expenditures



Army Guard Funding in Alaska - FFY08

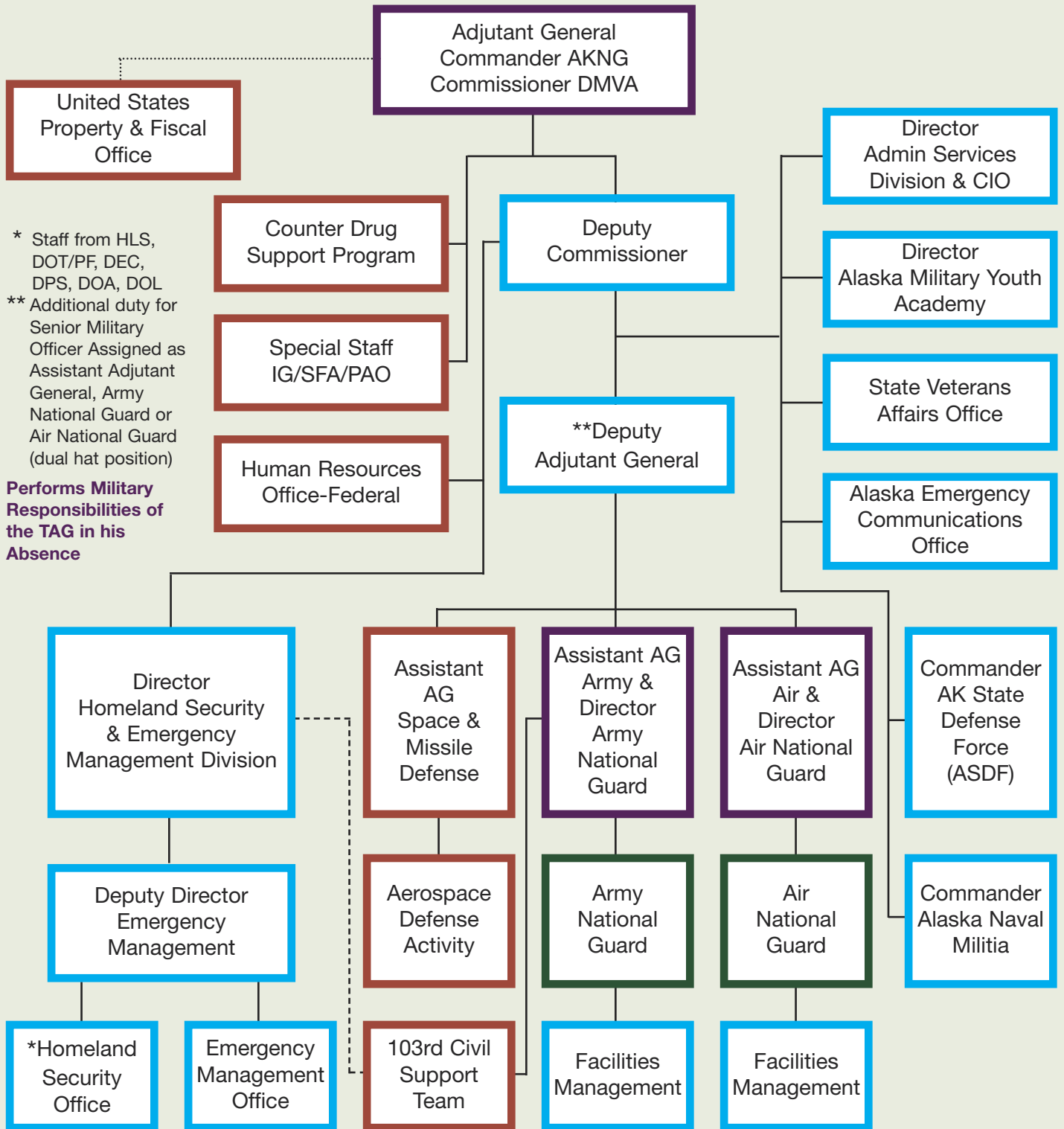


Air Guard Funding in Alaska - FFY08

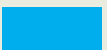


Data Sources: DMVA/DAS, AK Army National Guard, and AK Air National Guard (Charts by L. Baker)

Department of Military & Veterans Affairs



.....Coordination -----Supervisory Control *(When Designated)*



State



Federal



Combination State & Federal
Depending on status:
Normally State during M-F work week.
Paid Federally when in military status,
unless called to State Active Duty.



Federally paid but
may be called to
State Active Duty

Alaska Army National Guard



North Wind. Barrow resident Private First Class Steven Kaleak, 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry, Alaska Army National Guard, provides roadside security while his counterparts in the Japan Ground Self Defense Forces do a cordon building search during Operation North Wind 2008. Photo: Specialist Margaret Moonin, DMVA Public Affairs

In the past 20 months, the Alaska Army National Guard has deployed nearly 1,000 Soldiers in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Soldiers have worked assignments ranging from the command and control of brigades to convoy security to international liaison officers. Within the state, Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers have supported state and local governments with fire suppression and flood management.

As an example of our great diversity, the Alaska Army National Guard participated in the Pacific Command Theater Security Cooperation Program by providing subject-matter experts and exercise personnel to various supported nations.

Exercise Khaan Quest 2008

3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry Soldiers participated in Exercise Khaan Quest 2008, a multi-national, peace-supporting operational exercise, at the Five Hills Training Center, Mongolia, from August through September. The Alaska Army National Guard trained with soldiers from Mongolia, Nepal, Thailand, and India and provided overall command and control support to include a battalion staff

and medical team. Medical care was provided to outlying Mongolian communities during a medical readiness exercise held immediately after Exercise Khaan Quest 2008.

North Wind 2008

1st Battalion, 297th Infantry participated in the North Wind 2008 combined arms exercise with the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force in March. One hundred and twenty Soldiers participated in the exercise aimed at increasing their combat readiness and Forward Operating Base security in response to crises in the Asian-Pacific region.

Taiwan Mobile Training Team

Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers traveled to Taiwan in December 2007 to provide force protection and base-defense evaluation. Soldiers also served as instructors and evaluators at the Taiwanese school of infantry.

Deployments Highlights

B Company, 297th Support Battalion deployed nearly 180 Soldiers in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom for six months, conducting convoy security operations. The unit was recognized for exceptional service while deployed and was awarded: four Bronze Star Medals for Valor, 21 Bronze Star Medals for Service, five Purple Hearts, five Meritorious Service Medals, two Army Commendation Medals for Valor, 62 Army Commendation Medals for Service, 76 Army Achievement Medals for Service, 38 Combat Action Badges and 10 Combat Infantry Badges.

The 207th Aviation Battalion is preparing for a one-year deployment in support of Kosovo Force where they will be providing aviation support with UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters.



High Honor. Vice President Dick Cheney pins the Bronze Star Medal with Valor onto Specialist Veronica Alfaro of the Alaska Army National Guard's B Company, 297th Support Battalion. Alfaro and three others from the unit earned the award through exceptional gallantry in action against an enemy while they were serving in Iraq on a six-month deployment. Photo: Courtesy of Alaska Army National Guard

297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade

The 207th Infantry Group (Scout) transformed to the 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade in 2008. The 297th BFSB mission is to conduct reconnaissance, surveillance, and intelligence operations in support of division, corps or joint task forces and provide ongoing defense support to civil authorities.

The 297th BFSB includes the following subordinate units: 1st Squadron, 297th Cavalry Regiment (Reconnaissance & Surveillance), 373rd Military Intelligence Battalion, 297th Network Support Company, 207th Brigade Support Company and 297th Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

103rd Civil Support Team

This year, members of the 103rd Civil Support Team-Weapons of Mass Destruction provided assessment and advice to first responders and industry members in response to transportation accidents, maritime incidents and unknown substances unearthed by construction. Information provided by the 103rd helped prevent costly delays in the function of Alaska's vital infrastructure and industry.

In early 2008, the Civil Support Team once again hosted a multi-agency training conference in Fairbanks aimed at improving extreme cold weather decontamination techniques. Additionally, the team provided subject matter experts to evaluate and advise on training at the Chemical Defense Training Facility at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and at Vigilant Guard exercises in Tennessee and Guam.

38th Troop Command (Provisional)

The 38th Troop Command, which started forming in March, will provide the brigade-level command, administrative, operational and logistical support for the majority of the Alaska

Army National Guard. The span and scope of the Troop Command includes 14 units in a variety of fields: military police, airborne infantry, aviation, missile defense, medical and public



affairs. New capabilities are being added to the Alaska Army National Guard under the 38th Troop Command to provide fresh, exciting career fields such as a military police battalion, contingency contracting team and theater gateway unit.



Transformation. Soldiers with the Alaska Army National Guard stand at attention as Brigadier General Thomas Katkus, left, assistant adjutant general, Alaska Army National Guard, reveals the colors of the 38th Troop Command during a transformation ceremony held at the Alaska National Guard Armory.

Photo: Sergeant Jack W. Carlson III, 49th Missile Defense Battalion



Welcome Home.

Nearly 180 Soldiers with the Alaska Army National Guard's B Company, 297th Support Battalion stood in formation at the Alaska National Guard Armory on Fort Richardson in April after returning from a successful six-month deployment as security forces based out of Camp Anaconda, Iraq.

Photo: Specialist Margaret J. Moonin, DMVA Public Affairs

Background photo.

Flying High. Airborne operations conducted on Fort Richardson's Malemute Drop Zone utilize the Alaska Army National Guard C-23 Sherpa.

Photo: Courtesy of Alaska Army National Guard



49th Space and Missile Defense Battalion

The Missile Defense Complex capabilities grew in 2008 to include 24 ground-based interceptors, while the Missile Defense Agency continued construction on a third missile field. Brigadier General J. Randy Banez became the Assistant Adjutant General-Space and Missile Defense in September.

Twenty national and international media outlets visited members of the 49th Space and Missile Defense Battalion at Fort Greely this year, spreading the mission of the unit to a combined audience of more than 100 million people. Media attention on Fort Greely remains high as the U.S. continues to pursue a European ground-based missile defense site including 10 ground-based interceptors in Poland and a radar in the Czech Republic.

All Soldiers, approximately 200, in the 49th Missile Defense Battalion are full-time Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers.

U.S. Army Garrison-Fort Greely continues to expand its quality-of-life offerings to include the opening of the Valdez Glacier Campground, a BOSS Warrior Zone for single Soldiers, a new education center and classroom and an indoor playground for children.

Alaska-Mongolia State Partnership Program

We began 2008 with a visit by Mongolian President Nambaryn Enkhbayar. His visit solidified a Sister City relationship between Erdenet and Fairbanks and a Sister Park intent signing between Denali National Park and Tavaan Bogd National Park. Enkhbayar's visit spurred a delegation of Mongolian finance and investment specialists to visit the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation to see first hand the benefits of investing natural resources for the future.

Expanding beyond the traditional military-to-military engagements, the University of Alaska has offered three scholarships to Mongolian students with the first recipients scheduled to attend in spring 2009.

The Alaska Army National Guard continues to support the Mongolian Infantry Company in Operation Iraqi Freedom with an embedded advisor team. Stationed in Ad Diwayniya, Iraq, our advisors have assisted the Mongolian soldiers since April 2004.

Alaska Army National Guard Aviation

Fiscal year 2008 began with the welcoming home of F Company, 207th Theater Aviation Company from its six-month deployment to Iraq.

Aviation operational tempo continued to increase as the year progressed, with elements of the UH-60 Black Hawk unit deploying along the southern U.S. border. These aviators flew night-vision and forward-looking infrared reconnaissance missions in Arizona in support of Operation Jump Start between January and May. Here at home, the helicopter crews participated in 27 rescue missions, had 26

Missile Defense. A ground-based interceptor is lowered into its silo earlier this year on the Missile Defense Complex located at Fort Greely. The interceptors located here and at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., are used in the nation's emerging missile defense capability to defend the United States from an intercontinental ballistic missile attack. Photo: Sergeant Jack W. Carlson III, 49th Missile Defense Battalion

saves and eight assists in service to the citizens of Alaska.

The fixed- and rotary-wing aviators supported humanitarian missions in Alaska as they transported medical personnel for Arctic Care in Kodiak and Operation Taakti Topcover in Kotzebue – both are Office of the Secretary of Defense-sponsored missions.

The Alaska C-23 Sherpa crews were the first in the nation to conduct landings on unimproved (gravel) runways and to train pilots from other states in the process. The Aviation organization also embarked on an ambitious development plan to improve the Bryant Army Airfield, Fort Richardson, in preparation for the arrival of the C-27J, the joint cargo aircraft. The long-term vision for Bryant is as a base for joint helicopter and fixed-wing operations and to serve as a logistical hub for the C-27J as it conducts operations in the Pacific Rim.

Chaplain

The Alaska Army National Guard chaplains had a productive year serving deployed Soldiers, as well as reaching out to service members and families here at home. Strong Bonds is an Army-wide chaplain-led program that our Alaskan chaplains have provided since 2005. Strong Bonds focuses on relationship and life skills with the goal of enriching marriages and relationships by providing weekend retreats for couples and singles. This past year was the busiest ever, having provided Strong Bonds activities for approximately 160 couples and 30 singles.

207th Regional Training Institute

The 207th Regional Training Institute instructed and graduated more than 300 multi-component students from various non-commissioned officer education system courses. Highlights from the past year include accreditation from the U.S. Sergeants Major Academy and U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, as well as supporting the transformation of the Alaska Army National Guard's main combat element.

Counterdrug Support Program

The Counterdrug Support Program's Drug Demand Reduction program delivered high-quality drug- and alcohol-awareness briefings, community-awareness presentations, "Stay on Track" academic programs, and Red Ribbon and youth diversion programs to more than 17,400 participants and audience members.

This summer, DDR completed its first summer youth camp with its newly built "High-Ropes" course that served more than 280 participants representing 10 community-based organizations. The no-cost summer camp offered a community-value saving of \$70,000.

In 2008, DDR expanded its Rural Education Drug Program in direct collaboration with the Iditarod education program. This program delivers state-specific drug- and alcohol-awareness initiatives, as well as "Stay on Track" to Alaska's rural communities. The village of Metlakatla is one such community that has scheduled DDR to teach "Stay on Track" in the 2008-09 school year.

CDSP assisted in training more than 300 law enforcement officers across the state and supported Alaska law enforcement with more than 175 operations in 2008. During these activities, law enforcement officers seized 4,083 marijuana plants, 265 pounds of processed marijuana, 86 pounds of cocaine, three pounds of crack cocaine, 10 pounds of heroin, 10 pounds of methamphetamine, 178 weapons and \$966,995 cash. The total value of the interdicted illegal drugs, drug proceeds, seized vehicles and property was nearly \$8 million.



Weapons Familiarization. Private First Class Terry Proud, an Alaska Army National Guard Soldier from Anchorage, instructs a Mongolian Armed Forces platoon on operating procedures of the Squad Automatic Weapon machine gun at the Five Hills Training Center during Exercise Khaan Quest 2008.

Photo: Specialist Paizley Ramsey, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

Personnel

Recruiting efforts provided in excess of 280 new Soldiers to the Alaska Army National Guard. The new recruiting office in Eagle River and one on the way in the Mat-Su Valley greatly enhanced the Guard's visibility in the local community.

On the educational front, more than \$360,000 in state-issued educational benefits were disbursed to Soldiers and Airmen of the Alaska National Guard.

Several new national initiatives were implemented for better Soldier medical support related to deployment such as the post-deployment health risk assessment program and traumatic brain injury education and screening. More than 1,200 medical readiness screenings, retention physicals, flight examinations and medical board actions were conducted for Soldiers in preparation for deployments.

Facilities

A new 30,000-square foot armory is in the works for Bethel that will support the Alaska Army National Guard's aviation, airborne infantry and military police units in the region. Senator Ted Stevens pushed for \$16 million to help fund the new Bethel National Guard Readiness Center, and the Army anticipates that this funding will be expedited and construction will be underway in 2010.

The following major accomplishments were obtained for the Army's facilities across the state: \$10.5 million in state funding and \$3.2 million in federal dollars; \$7.6 million was invested for sustainment, restoration, and modernization of Army facilities to include a new passenger terminal at Bryant Army Airfield and resurfacing of hangar floors in Juneau, Bethel and Nome; \$1.4 million of federal funding was received and a contract awarded to construct a major addition and conduct significant renovations to the Kodiak Armory; a new, safer access road and a running trail were constructed on Fort Richardson to support the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs personnel and aviation operations.

Alaska Air National Guard

Serving Alaskans at Home...



Hurricane Gustav Support. Members of the 176th Logistics Readiness Squadron maneuver an HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter onto the loading ramp of a C-17 strategic airlift jet. The helicopter is one of two the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing deployed to the Gulf Coast region to support search-and-rescue operations in the aftermath of hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Photo: Lieutenant Colonel Tim O'Brien, 210th Rescue Squadron

176th Wing

In June 2008, a crowd of about 200 assembled in a vacant lot north of the flightline on Elmendorf Air Force Base. The ensuing short ceremony kicked off one of the most fundamental transformations in the history of the Air National Guard in Alaska: the closure of Kulis Air National Guard Base, home for more than 50 years to the Air Guard's 176th Wing, and the wing's subsequent relocation to Elmendorf Air Force Base.

The groundbreaking ceremony marked the site of the wing's new facilities. Nine brand-new, state-of-the-art buildings that, when the transition is completed in 2011, will serve as headquarters and work areas for one of the Air National Guard's largest and busiest wings.

The most high-profile of all Alaska Air National Guard missions remains wilderness search-and-rescue. The 176th Wing's rescue components consist of three squadrons. The 210th Rescue Squadron flies six HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters, highly-modified search-and-rescue variants of the well-known Black Hawk. The 211th Rescue Squadron flies four HC-130s, a version of the C-130 "Hercules" specially equipped for aerial refueling and search-and-rescue missions. And the 212th Rescue Squadron comprises the famed pararescuemen or "PJs" – elite rescuers

trained in combat medicine, marksmanship, SCUBA diving and wilderness survival.

Their missions are coordinated through the 11th Rescue Coordination Center, a high-tech Air Guard facility that this year relocated from Fort Richardson to Elmendorf Air Force Base. Together, the rescue package was credited with saving 72 lives from January-September 2008, with another nine people assisted to safety.

Not counted in those totals were 16 lives saved by the 26 members of the wing who deployed to the Gulf Coast region to perform search-and-rescue missions in the wake of hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

"This mission was a true testament to the training and capabilities of our Alaska Air National Guardsmen," said Governor Sarah Palin. "I was pleased to be able to direct our Alaska National Guardsmen to deploy to the Gulf Coast region and support the citizens of those states in a critical time of need."

It was also a busy year for the men and women of the 176th Air Control Squadron. From their facility on Elmendorf, these Guard members keep continuous watch on the skies over North America. Russia's resurgence in recent years, fueled by high oil prices, was reflected in an increase in long-range military flights near American airspace.



Shield of Pride. The engine inlet cover on a KC-135 proudly touts the Alaska Air National Guard in an 168th Air Refueling Wing hangar on Eielson Air Force Base.

Photo: Master Sergeant Brian Schlumbohm, 168th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Early in the year, about 50 members of the wing's Civil Engineer Squadron embarked on a two-week Deployment For Training to the U.S./Mexico border in the remote hills east of San Diego. They finished buildings, improved roads and performed other infrastructure upgrades in support of Operation Jump Start, a federal program to help secure the border.



Air Show. A KC-135 from the 168th Air Refueling Wing refuels a U.S. Air Force F-16 Thunderbird over Alaska's mountainous terrain.

Photo: Master Sergeant Brian Schlumbohm, 168th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs



Operation Jump Start. Technical Sergeant Carrie Nuxoll, top, of the 176th Civil Engineer Squadron, receives guidance on excavator operations from Technical Sergeant Tad Dooley, a fellow heavy equipment operator with the 176th Civil Engineer Squadron. The pair rebuilt and strengthened a crossing used by U.S. Border Patrol agents.

Photo: Second Lieutenant John Callahan, 176th Wing Public Affairs

168th Aerial Refueling Wing

Because of the 168th's close working relationship with the active duty – nearly all of its “customers” are active-duty aircraft, many of which are on operational missions – the wing's eight KC-135 Stratotankers transfer more fuel than those of any other Air National Guard tanker wing.

The 168th's other high-profile mission is missile warning and space surveillance – the detection of incoming inter-continental ballistic missiles and submarine-launched ballistic missiles. This high-tech task is carried out by the men and women of the Wing's 213th Space Warning Squadron at Clear Air Force Station, about 75 miles southwest of Fairbanks. With an influx of new personnel and an improved rank structure, the 213th is now fully operational. The unit continues to excel on operational inspections, and leadership has focused on improving quality of life issues associated with such a remote location. Members now have access to improved health care services on site, for example, and are now eligible for base housing on Eielson Air Force Base.

(Continued on next page)

... and Our National Interests Abroad

176th Wing

2008 saw steadily increasing activity at the wing's new 249th Airlift Squadron. The 249th is in what is called a "classic association" with the active-duty Air Force's 517th Airlift Squadron. Crew members from the two squadrons mix and mingle to fly the 517th's eight C-17 cargo jets around the world.

Many of those jets flew material into Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan. Manas was also the destination for about 30 wing members, most of them security forces personnel from the 176th Security Forces Squadron, who deployed there for six months throughout the summer to provide installation security and force protection. They were joined by the 176th Wing's command chief, Chief Master Sergeant Tim Tillman, who served as command chief for the Mission Support Group there.

And that wasn't the year's largest deployment or its longest. From January through June, 177 members of the wing's Maintenance Group and its rescue squadrons performed sterling work in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. While the rescuers flew 220 sorties – saving 61 lives – the maintainers, based at Bagram Air Base, provided combat-ready aircraft and munitions to the air component commander in support of Coalition forces throughout the country, maintaining an outstanding 97.1 percent fully mission capable rate.

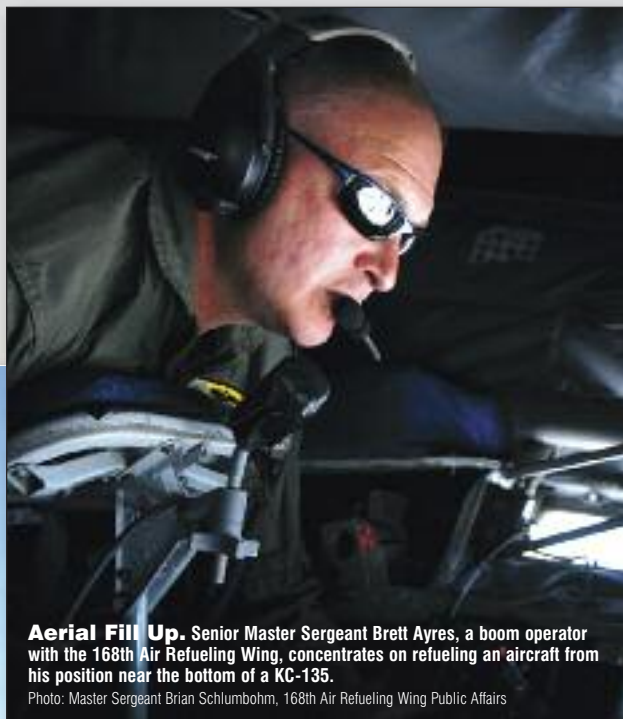
168th Aerial Refueling Wing

Another 30 Airmen from the 168th Security Forces Squadron supported Operation Enduring Freedom on a 10-month rotation in Kyrgyzstan. It was the squadron's fifth combat deployment

since the start of the Global War on Terrorism, and the second combat deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. It was the first deployment in which responsibility for security of a major overseas installation was turned over to the Air National Guard, with the 168th designated as the command element.

Another 44 members of the 168th deployed to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, where they joined the 385th Air Expeditionary Group as part of an overall team of KC-135 units contributing to the air bridge that supports Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

Back in our own hemisphere, 70 members of the 168th completed a 30-day rotation to the 478th Expeditionary Operations Squadron in Manta, Ecuador. There they provided critical aerial refueling support to Department of Defense assets poised to break the reign of South American drug trafficking. 168th members completed 23 flawless sorties and offloaded 1.3 million pounds of jet fuel. They also volunteered for numerous humanitarian efforts with the local Manta community.



Aerial Fill Up. Senior Master Sergeant Brett Ayres, a boom operator with the 168th Air Refueling Wing, concentrates on refueling an aircraft from his position near the bottom of a KC-135.

Photo: Master Sergeant Brian Schlumbohm, 168th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs



Humanitarian Mission in Cambodia. A forklift offloads a 3,000-pound pallet of medical supplies from an Alaska Air National Guard C-130 at Kampong Chhnang Province Airfield, Cambodia, in May. The Alaska Air Guard C-130 was the first U.S. military aircraft to land at this countryside airfield since it was built in 1975 under the Pol Pot's regime. This mission delivered medical supplies in support of Operation Pacific Angel, a joint humanitarian assistance operation. Photo: Technical Sergeant Tom Czerwinski, U.S. Air Force



Above International Waters. Hong Kong Government Flying Service Lieutenant Vincent Wong, left, and Technical Sergeant Brandon Stuemke, a pararescueman with the Alaska Air National Guard's 212th Rescue Squadron, practice seaborne hoisting in October during preparations for Hong Kong Search and Rescue Exercise 2008 off the coast of Hong Kong. The annual exercise involved units from the United States, Hong Kong and the People's Republic of China. Photo: Petty Officer First Class Michael B. Watkins, U.S. Navy

Homeland Security & Emergency Management



While the number of disasters in 2008 was thankfully low, activity in the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management has been high. Throughout the year, the Division has been working with local, state and federal partners to create a culture of preparedness, where first responders, emergency managers and technical specialists understand each other's capabilities and responsibilities during an emergency.

"The Division's readiness level was apparent during the late summer flooding that affected the Fairbanks North Star Borough and the City of Nenana," said DHS&EM Director John Madden. "Response to all emergencies needs to be swift and well coordinated. In order to accomplish this, we need to have well-designed plans, trained emergency responders, prepared communities and strong partnerships. These elements need to be completed when the sun is shining, not when a community calls for help."

Flooding in Fairbanks and North Slope Borough

DHS&EM responded to the most severe Fairbanks area flooding in the last 40 years. Flood waters damaged hundreds of homes in the Fairbanks/Nenana area. Storms also battered coastal communities on the Beaufort Sea. The state acted on all requests for aid and coordinated the delivery of assets, supplies and personnel to assist local responders. The State Emergency Coordination Center was activated and worked with numerous local, state and federal agencies to ensure an effective response.

Individual Assistance

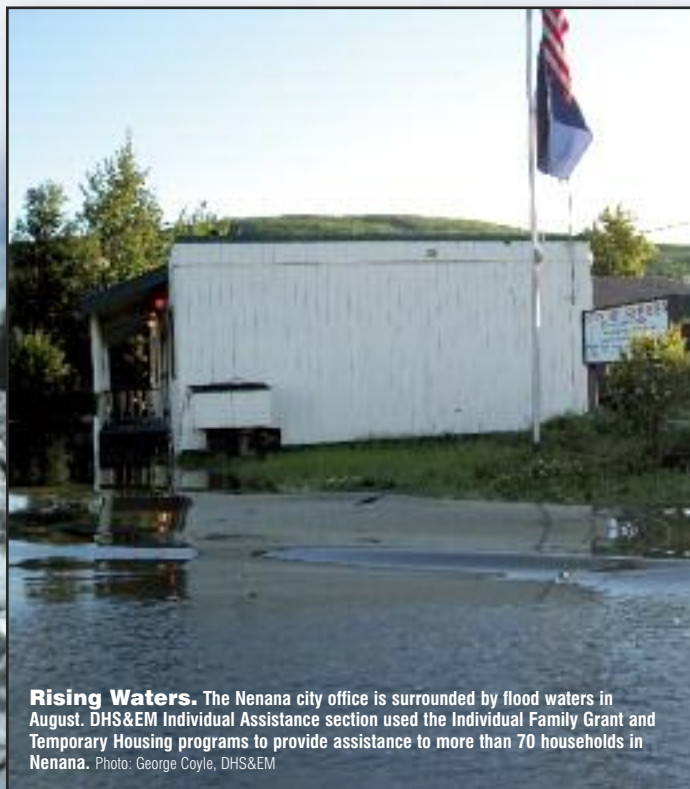
The State of Alaska is one of nine states that have an Individual Assistance program. For more than 30 years, the Division has provided victims of disaster with aid to help rebuild their homes, purchase personal items and replace primary means of transportation. During the Fairbanks/Nenana flooding, three Disaster Assistance Centers were established to help victims apply for state Individual Assistance and to distribute disaster recovery information. The Individual Assistance program took more than 250 applications within 30 days. The Division processed transient housing and temporary housing applications for 20 households.

Disaster Declaration

At the recommendation of DHS&EM, Governor Sarah Palin requested federal public assistance for the severe storm that affected the Fairbanks/Nenana area and the North Slope Borough. The president granted the governor's request with a Federal Public Assistance Disaster Declaration. The Division partnered with FEMA to establish a Joint Field Office in Anchorage and developed more than 50 scope-of-work project worksheets for damages to public infrastructure.

Planning

The Continuity of Operations and Continuity of Government planning process identified policies that will enable essential services and government to function after a catastrophic disaster. A governor's sub-cabinet on climate change designated six imperiled communities that face serious erosion that will eventually require relocation. The planning section has helped the endangered communities to develop comprehensive emergency plans while relocation efforts take place. DHS&EM conducted all-hazards vulnerability assessments to help eight communities assess their critical infrastructure.



Rising Waters. The Nenana city office is surrounded by flood waters in August. DHS&EM Individual Assistance section used the Individual Family Grant and Temporary Housing programs to provide assistance to more than 70 households in Nenana. Photo: George Coyle, DHS&EM



Dangerous Ice. An ice jam on the Lower Kuskokwim River forms in a few short hours and threatens to flood the village of Akiak in May. Photo: Jeremy Zidek, DHS&EM Public Affairs



Tsunami Ready. In May, Valdez became the fifth Alaska community to be certified Tsunami Ready. Representatives from DHS&EM, Alaska Tsunami Warning Center, National Weather Service and the city of Valdez were on hand for the recognition. From left to right: Mark Roberts, Sam Albanese, John Madden, John Hozey, Ervin Petty, Laura Furgione, Bob Hopkins, Paul Whitmore, Debra Elliot and George Keeney.

Photo: Audrey Rubel, National Weather Service

Tsunami Awareness

The Tsunami Ready program promoted community tsunami readiness by certifying communities with properly trained emergency response staff, tsunami-alert and evacuation infrastructure and community-wide tsunami education programs. Homer, Seward, Valdez, Sitka and Kodiak are certified Tsunami Ready Communities. In cooperation with the National Weather Service, the Division held a Tsunami Awareness Week to coincide with the anniversary of the 1964 Good Friday earthquake. During this week, testing of the Tsunami Alert system was done with education programs and tsunami preparedness exercises. Thirteen All-Hazard Alert Broadcast Systems and evacuation signs have been installed in communities across coastal Alaska.

Grants

DHS&EM administered more than \$30.4 million in Homeland Security Grants to improve communication systems, perform mitigation projects, improve security and help first-responder agencies respond to local events. Some of the most important projects are those that have helped improve capabilities in our smaller communities – a rescue boat in Sitka, dispatch center in Unalaska, dive equipment in Cordova, mass-casualty shelters in southeast Alaska, back-up generation systems in Bethel and security enhancements for Alaska Marine Highway System ports.

Training

The Division provided a wide-range of training for emergency responders and individuals. Alaskans completed more than 8,000 Incident Command System courses. Kivalina's emergency response personnel received evacuation and emergency response training to enable their community to deal with this year's fierce sea storms. Kobuk established an Incident Command structure to respond to spring flooding, following their training earlier in the year. In addition, the Division held or sanctioned more than 100 workshops, training sessions and classes in 2008.

State Emergency Coordination Center

The State Emergency Coordination Center monitors a wide range of threats that do not reach the level of a disaster. These threats include but are not limited to volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis, sea storms, wildfires, high winds and industrial

accidents. The SECC contacts community leaders when a potential emergency is identified.

Fuel Shortages

Between January and March, the Division assisted several small coastal communities with fuel shortages and other fuel-related emergencies. The SECC coordinated efforts by commercial fuel suppliers and state and federal agencies to deliver much-needed fuel to avert life-safety issues and damage to critical infrastructure.

River Watch

The River Watch program had another successful year conducting aerial surveillance of Alaska rivers prone to ice jam flooding. The River Watch teams surveyed thousands of miles along many rivers including the Yukon, Kuskokwim and Tanana rivers. River Watch teams are composed of a National Weather Service hydrologist, a local pilot and a DHS&EM emergency management specialist. The River Watch teams worked with local leaders, emergency managers and media outlets to alert people of flood dangers.

Fall Sea Storms

This year the Fall Sea Storm Preparation Guide was updated and distributed to 122 towns and traditional councils, 10 boroughs, and 21 state and federal agencies in Alaska. The guide helps local leaders prepare their communities by establishing evacuation and response procedures.

Disaster Related Public Assistance

The Public Assistance section continued to repair disaster-damaged infrastructure around the state. These repairs were from the 17 open disasters with approximately \$4,159,214 in repair projects for 36 Public Assistance applicants. Completion of these projects takes from three to five years due to the transportation challenges and the limited summer construction season.



Earthquake Simulator. Students from Iditarod Elementary watch as their teachers experience the Quake Cottage. Photo: Jeremy Zidek, DHS&EM



Veterans

Improving Services and Benefits

Governor Sarah Palin and Lieutenant General (Alaska) Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard and commissioner of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, raised the bar for the Alaska Veterans Office to improve services and benefits for Alaska's more than 74,000 veterans and their families. The Alaska Veterans Office is proud to announce it met those goals and brought enhanced services and benefits to those who have served.

Alaska Territorial Guard

An estimated 6,600 Alaskans volunteered to serve in the Alaska Territorial Guard during World War II to guard the home front after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. But it wasn't until 2000, when Senator Ted Stevens led Congress to pass a law changing ATG volunteer duty into federal military active duty service, that their service was federally recognized.

The Department of Military & Veterans Affairs has helped nearly 1,500 former ATG members complete applications for their U.S. Army discharge paperwork, and more than 750 U.S. Army discharges have been presented to ATG members or their families. Award ceremonies have taken place in Hooper Bay, Yakutat, Nulato, Eek, Point Hope, Kipnuk, Fairbanks and Anchorage.

Outreach efforts include participation in programs at the Tlingit/Haida "Celebration" in Juneau, Founders Day in Metlakatla, Manillaq Corporation meeting in Kotzebue and the Alaska Federation of Natives convention in Anchorage.

Efforts to work with various tribal communities for their

assistance in collecting ATG discharge applications has yielded positive results, with \$22,350 given to tribes across the state for their assistance and participation in the ATG recognition program.

While most ATG members are not authorized pay, 54 have been identified to receive additional Alaska National Guard retirement pay or new retirement pay benefits. Discharged ATG members have been provided special attention to make sure every veteran receives the pay he has earned. The Alaska Army National Guard personnel office assigned two individuals to review every discharged ATG member's service record to see if additional pay was warranted. When additional pay was due, they immediately begin the process to update the pay records for the ATG member to be paid appropriately.

Joint Venture Grant Agreement

The Joint Venture Grant Agreement provides assistance from service officers in obtaining benefits to Alaskan veterans and their families. The service officers are trained by their respective service organizations and certified by the Department of Veterans Affairs. This year, the service officers assisted almost 11,000 veterans and their families who received more than \$27 million from 2,093 claims for earned benefits. Alaskan veterans will receive almost \$120 million in compensation and pension payments from the Department of Veterans Affairs largely due to the efforts of the service officers under this program. As the number of veterans in Alaska has increased, steps to add two additional service officers are being taken to ensure our veterans' needs are best served.



ATG Heroes. Lieutenant General (Alaska) Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, proudly stands behind four surviving members of an Alaska Territorial Guard unit in Point Hope after their official discharge ceremony. "It is my honor to finally recognize the more than 6,600 Alaskans who answered the call to defend this state and nation," Campbell said. "The people of Point Hope have a long history of giving in a time of need, and they gave exceptionally during their service with the Alaska Territorial Guard." Former Alaska Territorial Guard members, pictured from left to right, Seymour Tuzrolyuke Sr., Alec Melic Sr., Phillip Dexter and Luke Koonook Sr., were four of 61 known Point Hope residents who volunteered to defend Alaska from 1942-1947. Photo: Specialist Margaret J. Moonin, DMVA Public Affairs



Purple Heart Trail. Veterans who are Purple Heart Medal recipients look on as Jerry Beale, state veterans office administrator, introduces Governor Sarah Palin during the Military Order of the Purple Heart state convention. Palin spoke to the convention participants and signed the bill authorizing Alaska's Purple Heart Trail on May 3, 2008. Seated next to Palin are MOPH State Commander Ron Siebels, Senator Johnny Ellis and Representative Berta Gardner. Photo: Andy Mills, Office of Governor Sarah Palin

The Alaska State Approving Agency

The Alaska State Approving Agency provides statewide oversight of educational facilities and programs to ensure that Alaska's veterans have opportunities to utilize their G.I. Bill funds. In its third year under DMVA, the SAA again increased these opportunities. There are currently more than 800 approved programs of study available at more than 60 education and training facilities across Alaska.

The overall program availability has increased more than 5 percent from FY 2007 and more than 12 percent since joining DMVA. More than \$8 million was distributed to eligible Alaskans through G.I. Bill payments in FY 2008. The SAA is a one-person operation largely funded by a grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Other Significant Accomplishments

An Alaskan Gold Star Mothers chapter was formed and is now helping other mothers and family members cope with the loss when their service member is killed in the line of duty.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart has a new distinctive license plate designed and released this year. Governor Sarah Palin signed into law designation of the Purple Heart Trail, which runs to Fairbanks from the Canadian border.

The Veterans Memorial Endowment Fund will provide more than \$12,500 to work on veteran monuments and memorials across the state.

Stand Down programs in Anchorage and Fairbanks continued to assist veterans in need. More than 700 veterans and family members were provided access to veterans services, hot meals, warm clothes, employment opportunities and good company during these one-day events.

The Alaska Veterans Advisory Council provided the governor and the adjutant general updates of regional veteran issues, as well as recommendations on veteran and service member programs. The Blue Star Banners, veterans hiring preference and health insurance for the National Guard were continued. Evaluation and

recommendations for Advocacy Award nominations and Memorial Endowment Grant applications were made by the council.

Electronic storage of a service member's discharge form, DD Form 214, was added to an existing contract and is being completed.

Rural veterans' health care was addressed in the federal FY 2009 Continuing Resolution by Congress and signed into law by President George W. Bush. Language directed that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall allow veterans who are eligible under existing Department of Veterans Affairs medical care requirements and who reside in Alaska to obtain medical care services from medical facilities supported by the Indian Health Service or tribal organizations under certain conditions. This issue has been a priority of the State Veterans Office for four years, and the effort has finally paid off.



Blue Star Banner. American Legion Commander Jim Pisa, left, and Adjutant Gene Franks, right, present Governor Sarah Palin a Blue Star Banner to place in her office while her son Track is deployed with his U.S. Army unit. They made the presentation during their visit to discuss veterans' issues at the governor's Juneau home in February.

Photo: Jason Bluhm, Office of Governor Sarah Palin

Alaska Military Youth Academy

Serving Alaskans & Changing Lives

This year has been another progressive year of change, yielding superb results within the Alaska Military Youth Academy.

Rural and interior Alaska student applications and participation significantly increased since 2007. Cumulatively, the Academy has graduated more than 2,631 ChalleNGe cadets. The Academy has a proven track record of success and demonstrates unlimited potential to serve Alaska and Alaska's high school at-risk youth in the future.



Proud Graduate. Alaska Military Youth Academy cadet Katie Berger is presented with a diploma from Commandant Vicki Garner during the 2008-2 class graduation at the Alaska Center for Performing Arts in downtown Anchorage. The diploma presented to Berger represents the successful completion of the Alaska Military Youth Academy ChalleNGe program. Photo: Charlee's Photography

The Alaska Military Youth Academy's tuition-free ChalleNGe program, located on Fort Richardson within the Camp Carroll training site, is designed to provide at-risk 16- to 18-year-old Alaskan youth, who have dropped out of high school, with an opportunity to complete a high school education or earn a GED, gain healthy life skills, and develop leadership and teamwork skills that will prepare them for lifelong success.

The Academy's main campus is located at Camp Carroll, which provides living facilities, food service, academic classes, vocational training, counseling, medical services and administrative support 24 hours a day, seven days a week for ChalleNGe cadets. The Academy is accredited by the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools and is an Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development testing site.

Alaska's ChalleNGe program is based on historically tried and proven American military training methods and structure. The structure and discipline allow cadets to focus on goals and fully perform during the mentally and physically demanding 22-week residential phase. The Academy is not a military "boot camp." The mission of the ChalleNGe Program is to intervene and reclaim the lives of at-risk youth.

To graduate from the residential phase, cadets are required to pass eight core components: academic excellence, physical fitness, job skills, service to the community, health and hygiene, responsible citizenship, leadership/followership and life coping skills. The residential phase further prepares cadets to successfully continue in the program's year-long post-residential phase where students pursue their documented future plans.

To provide Alaskan youth and families easier access to Academy information and facilitate the application process, the



Graduation Day! Alaska Military Youth Academy graduates toss their berets into the air following their graduation ceremony at Buckner Physical Fitness Center on Fort Richardson. After five-and-a-half months of military-style training and discipline, 123 cadets of the 2008-01 class graduated from the AMYA ChalleNGe program. Photo: Courtesy of Alaska Military Youth Academy

school maintains two satellite offices – one in the Dimond Center in South Anchorage and another in the Alaska Army National Guard Armory in Fairbanks. Since opening the admissions office in Fairbanks, applications from interior and rural Alaska have significantly increased and continue to remain high. Approximately 46 percent of the cadets in class 2009-01 are from outside the Anchorage area.

Applications received and processed for the spring class of 2008 and the fall class of 2007 were the highest in the Academy's history. The last four classes represent the highest average number of applicants and graduates in the 15-year existence of the Academy. The Alaska Military Youth Academy is ranked #1 in the nation with regard to contacting and recruiting high school drop-outs.

The Academy graduated 123 cadets from the spring 2008 class, while the fall 2007 class saw 143 graduates. These statistics demonstrate that the Academy is producing 106 percent more than its target graduation population per year. This ranks the Academy third best among all ChalleNGe programs in this area.

Drill and Ceremony.

Cadet platoon leader Kekoa Ramirez, of AMYA class 2008-2's 2nd platoon, renders a triumphant salute after leading his fellow cadets to a first-place victory in the family fun day Drill and Ceremony competition.

Photo: Specialist Paizley Ramsey, 134th Public Affairs Detachment



- The Alaska Military Youth Academy ranks #1 in the nation for contacting and recruiting high school drop-outs into the program.
- Rural and interior Alaska student applications and participation are up. For the most recent class (2009-01), 25 percent of attendees are from rural and interior Alaska.
- Nationally, the Alaska Military Youth Academy is one of only five ChalleNGe programs regionally accredited as a high school.
- The Academy is producing 106 percent more than its target graduation population per year. The Academy ranks third best among all ChalleNGe Programs nationally in this area.
- AMYA cadets took 1st place honors for the past four consecutive years in the small schools division at the GCI Academic Decathlon.
- The Academy has exceeded 2,631 graduates who are demonstrating exceptional success in their lives.
- The last four graduating classes were the largest in the Academy's 15-year history.

Starbase Alaska



To Raise *Interest* and *Improve* the Knowledge and Skills of Youth in **MATH, SCIENCE** and **TECHNOLOGY**

Department of Defense STARBASE is a partnership between the military, local school systems and communities.

STARBASE is a premier educational program sponsored by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. At STARBASE, students participate in challenging “hands-on, mind-on” activities in aviation, science, technology, engineering, math and space exploration. Students also learn teamwork, goal setting and the importance of staying off drugs.

STARBASE Alaska’s goal is to motivate students to explore science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) as they continue their education. The program serves students who are historically under-represented in STEM.

STARBASE is a world leader in introducing the latest STEM curriculum to elementary students. The inquiry-based curriculum, developed on 13 core concepts, engages students in exciting experiments and technology activities. The program is rigorous, relevant and has a “wow” factor to achieve maximum learning. STARBASE core curriculum concepts are: Newton’s Laws of Motion, four forces of flight, Bernoulli’s Principle, model rocketry, properties of air, development and use of technology, properties and states of matter, flight simulation, space exploration, goal setting, teamwork and substance abuse avoidance.

Each year STARBASE Alaska has grown in size and scope of its original mission. During the 2008 school year and summer sessions, STARBASE Alaska at Fort Richardson reached more than 1,200 students in the Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna areas. This diverse group of young people came from 20 different schools. We also continued Teacher Kits to reach more classrooms and support the Matanuska-Susitna School District. We offered Teacher Training for new teachers, and 13 “kit” classes from Wasilla, Teeland and Houston Middle Schools attended STARBASE. The “kit” classes were so successful that we have added more class dates as well as kits to check-out.

STARBASE Alaska continues to expand its reach into the community through participation in school science nights, Kids Day, the Mat-Su Governor’s picnic, YWCA and Girl Scouts. STARBASE also participated in the Arctic Thunder Air Show and offered an open house at the BP Energy Center to share the program with principals, parents and the public.

By becoming “Partners in Education” with local school districts, STARBASE Alaska continues the mission of educating and developing responsible, productive, life-long learners and critical thinkers capable of assisting and leading America successfully in the 21st century. Together with the help of parents and teachers (1,025 chaperone hours and 990 teacher hours in 2008) STARBASE Alaska is making a difference in the lives of students.

2008 Milestones

- Hosting our 250th class at STARBASE Alaska – Taku Elementary
- Hosting our 50th Mat-Su class – Wasilla Middle School



Aviation Day. Governor Sarah Palin, left, speaks with Teresa Nelson, center, STARBASE Alaska office manager, and Shanna McPheters, STARBASE Alaska program manager, at the Aviation Fair held November 2007. Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs



Milestone. Taku Elementary students celebrate their status as the 250th STARBASE class. Photo: Courtesy of STARBASE Alaska



Hands-on Demonstration. Colonel Scott Wenke, 168th Air Refueling Wing commander, demonstrates Bernoulli’s Principle during a STARBASE summer class for children of Department of Military & Veterans Affairs employees.

Photo: Courtesy of STARBASE Alaska

Year End Report 2007-2008 School Year

Number of Students Registering:	1100	Male	583
Number of Students Completing:	1047	Female	517

Average Pre-Test	Average Post-Test	Average Increase
53.27%	82.04%	30.19%

We've been **GREEN** for over 20 years!

TOYOSTOVE HEATERS



Laser 30

generate 10% to 50%
LESS CO₂ emissions
than most whole-house type
heating systems



Laser 56



Laser 73

Oil Miser



Oil Miser 22

- Reduces environmental impact
- Alaska-based distribution
- Low fuel consumption
- Low power draw
- Low maintenance



Laser 60AT

*Terms of CASH BACK Consumer Mail-in Rebate:

Cash Back applies to Toyotomi direct-vent space heaters and hot water heaters purchased by end users at the retail level from REE authorized dealers. Mail a copy of your invoice showing the date of purchase, the serial number of the unit, and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: REE 6637 Arctic Spur Road, Anchorage, AK 99518. Cash Back request must be postmarked within 30 days of the date of purchase. Allow 6 to 8 weeks for processing.



Helping Alaskans Save Energy

www.rural-energy.com

For more information or the name of
your nearest dealer, call

1-800-770-7330

907-278-7441

DRASH®

THE WARFIGHTER'S CHOICE

USED IN THE HARSHTEST ENVIRONMENTS BY THE TOUGHEST WARFIGHTERS

From the arctic cold to the desert heat, DRASH is built to thrive in extreme temperatures and rough terrain. As versatile as your mission, DRASH can easily be configured as a TOC, Medical Facility, or Life Support Area, enhancing any operation and enabling you to accomplish any objective.

Modular

45 different shelter models, ranging from 109 to 1,250 square feet interconnect with each other to increase operational areas as necessary.

Rapidly Deployable

Requires no special equipment, site preparation or extensive training and can be set up within minutes.

Rugged

Patented frame and cover designs ensure durability under any weather conditions and in temperature extremes ranging from -50°F to +131°F.

Reliable

DRASH offers 24/7 reliable product and technical support, including a flexible range of service contracts and options.

Mobile

DRASH systems can be towed via HMN/WV, LMTV, FMTV or non-tactical vehicles, or transported via military sea or aircrafts.

Tested

DRASH has been tested extensively at military testing facilities, making it the most proven, tested and trusted name in tactical shelter infrastructures.



DHS SYSTEMS LLC
A DHS TECHNOLOGIES COMPANY

www.drash.com/guard